

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AS-01 STR-04 SSO-00 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4277

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PASS TREASURY AND STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION: FLOAT GLASS-ITALY

REF: STATE 269597

1. UPON RECEIPT OF REFTEL, EMBOFF DISCUSSED FLOAT GLASS COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION NOVEMBER 14 WITH MINISTRY FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) REP SIMEONE (DIRECTOR, GATT, EC AFFAIRS).

2. SIMEONE ALSO REACTED NEGATIVELY TO SUGGESTION THAT ITALIAN MANUFACTURERS PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCES TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO EXPORT TO THE US MARKET. HE SAID THAT TWO MANUFACTURERS, VERANTE AND ST. GOBAIN, HAVE INDICATED NO INTEREST IN SUPPLY US MARKET. THE OTHER MANUFACTURER, SIV, UNWILLING FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY OF FUTURE EXPORTS TO US. SIMEONE INDICATED IT WOULD, IN HIS OPINION, BE UNFAIR FOR VERNANTE AND ST. GOBAIN TO ENTER BINDING COMMITMENT WHEN THEIR COMPETITOR, SIV, UNWILLING TO DO SO. HE BELIEVES ALL MANUFACTURERS SHOULD HAVE (AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEAST IN THEORY) EQUAL ACCESS.

3. VERNANTE IS US SUBSIDIARY OF PITTSBURG PLATE GLASS;
MFT "UNDERSTANDS" THAT IT IS DISCOURAGED BY PARENT COMPANY
FROM EXPORTING TO US. ST. BOGAIN IS FRENCH AND ITALIAN-
OWNED COMPANY. SIV IS ITALIAN-OWNED COMPANY; IT IS ONLY ONE
OF THE THREE WITH INTEREST IN US MARKET.

4. SIMEONE STATED HE HAS OBTAINED ADDITIONAL DATA FROM
SIV, WICH DATA ALREADY SUBMITTED TO TREASURY DEPARTMENT.
HE SAID VERNANTE WILL NOT RPT NOT PROVIDE FURTHER INFO.
SIMEONE INDICATED ST. GOBAIN IS IN PROCESS OF SUPPLYING
ADDITIONAL DATA WHICH MFT WILL FORWARD TO TREASURY/ "WITHIN
A FEW DAYS."

5. IT APPEARS BEST WE COULD DO, IF MATTERS WERE PUSHED
WITH MFT AND COMANIES, WOULD BE TO OBTAIN WRITTEN ASSURANCES
FROM NO MORE THAN TWO OF THE THREE MANUFACTURERS. EVEN
VERNANTE AND ST. GOBAIN MAY RESIST SUCH PROCEDURE; SIMEONE
INDICATED ONLY THAT THEY MIGHT BE PERSUADED TO GO ALONG WITH
SUCH AN APPROACH.

6. EMBASSY WILLING PURSUE MATTER FURTHER WITH MFT AND/OR
COMPANIES, IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES SOMETHING CAN BE WORKED
OUT ON BASIS OF WRITTEN ASSURANCES FROM SOME SUPPLIERS AND
ADEQUATE DATA FROM OTHER SUPPLIERS TO REBUT PETITIONERS'
INFORMATION. OR IS SITUATION SUCH THAT ONLY WRITTEN
ASSURANCES CAN PROVIDE BASIS FOR NEGATIVE FINDING OR
TERMINATION OF INVESTIGATION? PLEASE ADVISE.

BEAUDRY

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